



MALCOM

WARRIORS BASEBALL

has two All-America selections

Eastern senior catcher Matt Malcom of East Lyme was a fourth-team selection to the American Baseball Coaches Association (ABCA) Division III All-America Team for 2023, with sophomore left-handed pitcher Dan Driscoll of Waterford also earning fourth-team All-America recognition by D3baseball.com.

Malcom becomes the program's 61st ABCA All-American but the first selected at the catcher position. Driscoll becomes the program's ninth D3baseball.com All-American since 2013 and the first left-handed pitcher honored.

In addition to repeating as a first-team All-Region 2 pick by the ABCA in 2023, Malcom was named second-team All-Region 2 this year by D3baseball.com following his first-team selection in 2022.

A first-year transfer, Driscoll was named first-team All-Region 2 as a starting pitcher by D3baseball.com and second-team All-Region 2 as a pitcher by the ABCA.

Only three of the other 19 All-America starting pitchers had a better strikeout-to-walk ratio than Driscoll's 1-to-5.44, and only nine of the starting pitchers had more average strikeouts per nine innings than Driscoll's 10.4.



DRISCOLL



Eastern wins Commissioner's Cup for sixth year in a row

For the sixth consecutive season, Eastern has claimed the Little East Conference (LEC) Commissioner's Cup, the league's top honor for overall institutional athletic performance.

Eastern captured the cup by accumulating a point average of 7.11 among its 19 varsity programs in 2022-23. Eastern claimed the top spot in the conference in women's basketball, softball and men's golf, and scored second-place points in baseball, women's cross country, men's soccer, men's and women's swimming and diving, men's indoor track and field, and men's and women's outdoor track and field.

"I continue to be amazed by the athletic abilities of our student-athletes," said Eastern President Elsa Núñez. "For them to win the Commissioner's Cup six years in a



row is enduring testimony of their dedication and commitment to sport. I'd also like to give praise to our coaching staff, who year after year instill the ethics of hard work, team play and sportsmanship. Together, our student-athletes and supporting staff are creating a legacy of excellence on and off the field."

Director of Athletics Lori Runksmeyer added, "The competition in the LEC sees more parity every year, which makes earning this achievement more special every time. I'm proud that our student-athletes and the Athletics Department staff worked so hard to keep the Commissioner's Cup at Eastern."

LEC Commissioner Pamela S. Samuelson (left) presents Lori Runksmeyer with the winning cup.



STOKER

EASTERN SOFTBALL goes undefeated in



VILCHEZ



Eastern's softball team, which became the first in Little East Conference history to win every game in a 16-game regular season, received 13 of the conference's year-end awards.

Picked to finish third by the coaches in the LEC pre-season poll after losing four All-Americans from the 44-7 (15-1 LEC) team in 2022, the 2023 team won all of its conference games this year for the second time (the only program to go undefeated in the LEC's 27-year history).

For the third straight season and eighth time overall, Eastern landed the LEC Player-of-the-Year and Pitcher-of-

the-Year awards, with 22-year head coach Diana Pepin earning Coach-of-the-Year honors for the second straight year and for the seventh time in her career.

Senior pitcher/second baseman Alyssa

Vilchez of Brampton, Ontario, was named Player-of-the-Year despite having never previously been voted to the all-conference team, while senior Carley Stoker of Sandy Creek, NY, was voted Pitcher-of-the-Year for the second time in three seasons.

Every Eastern starting position player and both key pitchers were recognized with at least one award.



Coach Pepin

Doran named women's lacrosse head coach



Devyne Doran '17 is the seventh permanent head coach in the 29-year history of Eastern's women's lacrosse program. A native of South Kingstown, RI, Doran returns to Eastern after playing four seasons (2014-17) and serving as an assistant for two years (2018-19) under former Head Coach Christine Hutchison. She is the first alumna to serve as the program's permanent head coach.



Doran in action during her playing days at Eastern

"I'm so happy to welcome Devyne back to the Warrior family," said Lori Runksmeier, athletics director. "Her commitment to our student-athletes' experiences was palpable during the interview process. I look forward to her engagement with our women's lacrosse alumni and appreciate her passion for Eastern athletics."

Doran was a four-year starter on defense under Hutchison and remained as an assistant coach at Eastern before being named to her first collegiate head coaching position at Mitchell College prior to the 2020 season. After two seasons at Mitchell, Doran was named head women's lacrosse coach at Framingham State University prior to the 2022 season, compiling a two-year record of 23-16 and 11-3 in the Massachusetts State College Athletic Conference regular season.

"I am proud to be named the next head women's lacrosse coach at Eastern," said Doran. "I couldn't be more excited to return home to my alma mater and build upon the foundation of Eastern's success, which I am so grateful to have been a part of. I am committed to Eastern's tradition of excellence by fostering a positive and competitive culture within the program. I can't wait to get to work on the 2024 season!"



Lewis claims All-America golf honors



Eastern junior Ashton Lewis of Fairfield became the first member of the men's golf program to earn All-America recognition when he was among 49 selections named to the 2022-23 Golf Coaches Association of America Division III PING All-America Team.

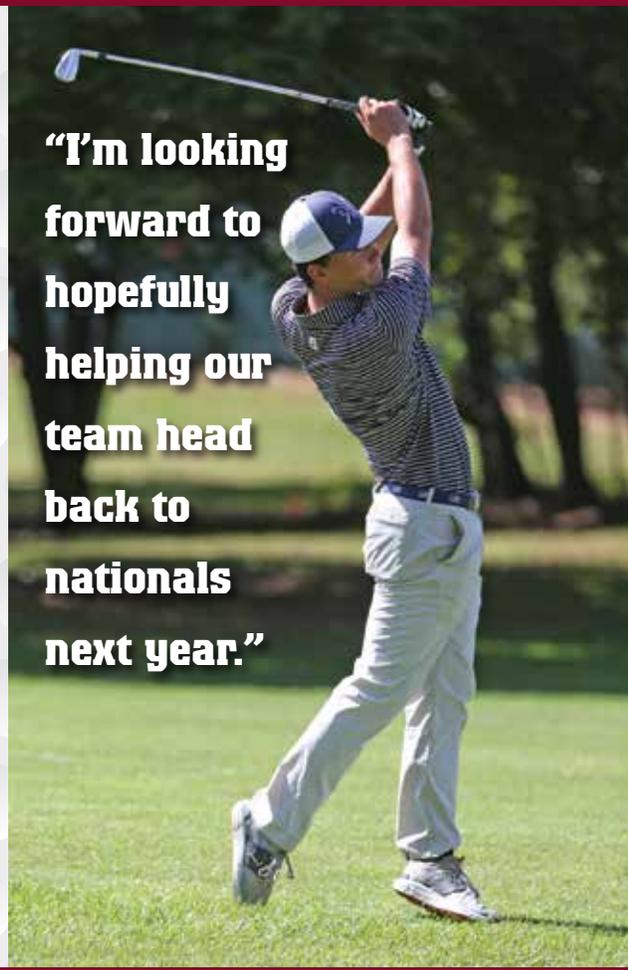
A two-time Little East Conference Player-of-the-Year and LEC tournament medalist, Lewis was among only two players from New England institutions and one of only three players from the PING All-Region 1 team to earn this national recognition.

"I am very happy that Ashton is being recognized for his golf game — he has definitely put in the work," said Head Coach Marc Senia. "He has worked extremely hard and is very dedicated to not only improving his golf game but also as a person and teammate."

Lewis concluded the spring regular season by winning the Eastern Spring Invitational before leading all New England players when he shared 47th place in an original field of 221 golfers at the NCAA Division III National Championships at Keene Trace Golf Club in Nicholasville, KY.

"It's a great honor to be mentioned along with such great golfers across the country," said Lewis of the All-America recognition. "Especially being able to get the Eastern name out there is always cool to do for the program. I'm looking forward to hopefully helping our team head back to nationals next year."

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Outstanding feats for track-and-field athletes

Wendie Stewart '23 concluded her Eastern track-and-field career with a record-breaking shot-put throw of 42 feet and 11 ¾ inches at the New England Open Championships in May, beating former Eastern All-America and Olympian Bonnie Edmondson's 39-year-old record of 42 feet and 9 inches.

STEWART



On the men's side, Aidan Hennessy '24 became the first Eastern athlete to win the New England Division III outdoor triple jump championship in 23 years in May at the New England Division III Outdoor Track & Field Championships, with a jump of 46 feet and 9 ½ inches — the third longest jump in program history.



HENNESSY

Gibson to lead men's lacrosse



Craig Gibson, an 18-year veteran as a Division I lacrosse coach, has been named the seventh head coach in the 28-year history of Eastern's men's lacrosse program.

Having served the past four years as the associate head coach and offensive coordinator at Fairfield University, the

South Salem, NY, native replaces Marc Graham.

"I'm so excited coach Gibson will be joining the Eastern community," said Eastern Director of Athletics Lori Runksmeier. "Craig's proven expertise in developing explosive offenses emerged as a strength, and his ability to communicate with the athletes really made him stand out."

"I would like to thank Lori Runksmeier and the members of the search committee for this opportunity to lead Eastern's men's lacrosse program," said Gibson. "I was impressed by the tradition of excellence that exists within the University, the family-like atmosphere and beautiful campus. I am extremely excited to join the campus community and begin preparing for the 2024 season."